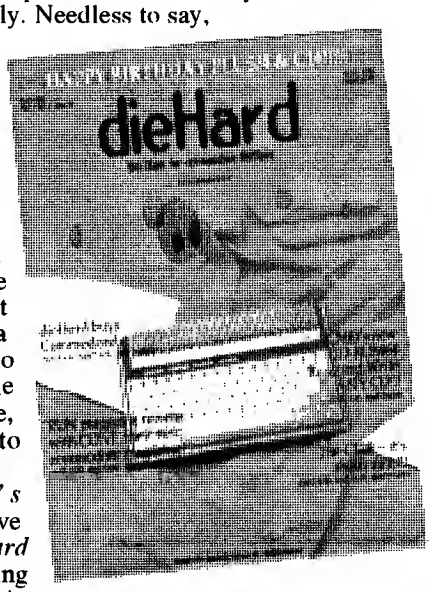
LOADSTAR LETTER

"Celebrating 10 Years!" • Since 1984 • Number 10 • May 1994

dieHard Goes To The Newsstands

In its continual expansion, *dieHard, the ~~Flyer~~ magazine for 8-bitters,* has expanded to newsstands, and may show up at your local book store. Now in publication for two years, dieHard is being distributed publicly. Needless to say, the folks are very excited -- and busy.



For the most part *dieHard* will be at the newsstands at book stores, specifically the *Barnes & Nobles* book stores like *B. Dalton, Bookstar,* and *Waldenbooks.* Don't be surprised if it doesn't show up in your area right away. It's going to take a while for all the connections to be made, and for distribution to reach the entire country.

LOADSTAR's roving reporter talked live via satellite with *dieHard* and received the following comment, "This is a big step for us. As most of you know, dieHard started out as a 'flyer' and moved into magazine status. Being distributed at newsstands is a whole new ballgame for us. Please share with us in the pride we are going to feel at seeing our *dieHard* on the newsstands."

LOADSTAR Changes Its Email Address

If you want to contact *LOADSTAR* via modem, send internet mail to *LOADSTAR@genie.geis.com. GEnie* users can send Email to *LOADSTAR.* The old address of *J.Jones36* is no more. Mail sent to J.Jones 36 will disappear into an electronic black hole. We've received plenty of Email via *GEnie* and internet, but not enough. *LOADSTAR* LETTER submissions are preferred though Email.

CMD Ships The First Issue Of Commodore World Magazine

Creative Micro Designs, creators of the popular *JiffyDOS, RAMlink,* and various disk drives, has jumped into the publishing fray with Commodore World. This is not vaporware. The magazine pictured is a scan of the actual first issue received in the mail. *COMMODORE WORLD* is on a six-week schedule.

One might think that a *CMD* magazine would be filled with self-serving articles about its own products. While there is a 3-page ad for their products, the rest of the magazine offers authoritative how-to advice from CBM notables whose names you'll recognize. There are also ads from 8-bit vendors you never knew existed.

The glossy-covered 44-page magazine is professionally done, looking nothing like a first effort. *LOADSTAR* contacted Charlie Christianson, Sr., who commented that the *CMD* staff wasn't new to desktop publishing. After all they had to produce all the advertisements you see in the *LOADSTAR LETTER* and elsewhere. They've also had to author many manuals. Doug Cotton, editor of *COMMODORE WORLD,* is pleased with his creation, but says that you can bet the publication will get better with time, and with input from readers, which he encourages.

The premiere issue was an informative read with no fluff. If I read any negative reviews, I'll be surprised indeed. *LOADSTAR* hopes and expects success for *COMMODORE WORLD.* Creative Micro Designs, PO Box 646, East Longmeadow MA 01208. Subscriptions $29.95 Domestic, $35.95 Can/Mex. 1-800-638-3263. Questions 1-413-525-0023.

President Clinton Gets Another EMail Death Threat

04/25/94 LUFKIN, TEXAS, U.S.A., 1994 APR 25 (NB) -- A 19-year-old college student is reportedly free on his own recognizance after pleading not guilty to threatening President Bill Clinton via electronic mail. Matthew M. Thomas, a freshman at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacagdoches, Texas, is accused in a two-count indictment of sending the e-mail threats to the White House on April 7, 1994.

Thomas allegedly used a computer bulletin board to send a transmission to the White House which contained threats to the lives of President Bill Clinton and his family. Robert Putzke, assistant chief of the university police department, said that Secret Service agents came to the school after the threats were sent from a computer in the school's computer lab.

Thomas is reportedly scheduled to go to trial June 20, 1994. If convicted he could be sentenced to up to five years in a federal prison without parole and as much as a $250,000 fine for each of the two counts. The White House Press Office was unable to confirm the story and referred Newsbytes to the Secret Service Public Affairs Office. That office said Newsbytes would have to contact Shawn Campbell, the resident agent in charge of

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Our regular customers know how to stretch their software dollars shopping our Used Software Listings.

✶ **Un-Advertised Specials.**
Our regular customers enjoy VIP service and great bargains that are hard to pass up.

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As a regular Software Support customer, you have access to the most knowledgeable Commodore technical departments in the country. Of this, we're darn proud.

✶ **Friendly & Courteous Order Takers.**
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Thanks to our automated computer system, huge inventory and efficient shipping staff, most orders are processed the same day.

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the Austin, Texas office. A Secret Service employee in Austin said Agent Campbell is out of the office all week.

The Clinton Administration is the first to receive e-mail. Some of the major subscription services, including GEnie and Compuserve, have forums where users can read press releases and other information originating at the White House as well as send letters to the President. Most letters are answered by White House staffers via US Postal Service mail.

Director of Presidential E-Mail Stephen Horn told Newsbytes currently the President receives about 20,000 communications daily including letters, faxes, and e-mail. Electronic messages make up 600 to 800 pieces of the daily correspondence.

Horn said that every communication is read by a staffer. A report is prepared weekly for the President that includes representative communications both favorable and unfavorable. "On a given issue we try to find the letter that most succinctly summarizes what the people are saying," Horn told Newsbytes.

Earlier this year, a University of Illinois student, James Reincke, was also charged with threatening the President's life. In part, Reincke's message said, "I am curious, Bill how you would feel about being the first president to be killed on the same day as his wife?" The contents of Thomas's message have not released. (Jim Mallory/19940425)
: Bob Safir, Interoctave, tel 408-439-0342 or 213-629-0101)

Hot Off The Wires: Commodore Limited To Liquidate

NEW YORK, April 29 /PRNewswire/ -- Commodore International Limited (NYSE: CBU), a pioneer in the personal computer industry, said late Friday it is going out of business.

The company plans to transfer its assets to unidentified trustees "for the benefit of its creditors" and has placed its major subsidiary, Commodore Electronics Ltd., into voluntary liquidation.

"This is the initial phase of an orderly voluntary liquidation of both companies," Commodore said in a brief statement.

Company executives could not immediately be reached Friday evening.

The company last month reported an $8.2 million loss for the quarter ending Dec. 31 on sales of $70.1 million. A year earlier, Commodore lost $77.2 million on sales of $237.7 million in the same period. In the latest report, Commodore said financial limits had thwarted its ability to supply products, leading to weakened sales. One of its new products, the Amiga CD32 video game, had sold poorly in Europe, where the company did most of its business.

The company's net worth turned negative in the fiscal year ended last June 30. Its stock, which had traded at around $3 per share before the quarterly results were announced last month, closed unchanged at 87 1/2 cents per share on the New York Stock Exchange Friday.

"This is a company that briefly captured the attention of the American market and didn't go where the market was going," said David Coursey, editor of the newsletter P.C. Letter in San Mateo, Calif. "They just never managed to change with the marketplace."

While grabbing some market share and attention in the late 1970s, Commodore's products were something between PCs and game machines "and never quite became either," Coursey said.

Commodore started 40 years ago as a typewriter repair company in the Bronx. Its extension to the adding machine business paved the way for it to make calculators and then personal computers by the mid-1970s.

Commodore competed with Radio Shack for the first computers sold to homes and co-founder Jack Tramiel became a highly-regarded figure in the fledgling PC industry. By the early 1980s, it was overshadowed in the PC business by Apple Computer Inc. and IBM. Software manufacturers didn't create as much software for Commodore's Amiga line as it did for Apple and IBM-compatible machines.

In recent years, most of Commodore's business was in Europe. NewTek Inc. of Topeka, Kan., created a product called Video Toaster that converted Commodore's Amiga to a video-editing system. The $2,500 product was popular with small advertising agencies and home hobbyists. [Note from Jeff: The toaster is used in *Babylon 5, Seaquest, Quantum Leap, RoboCop,* and *Unsolved Mysteries* for starters. That was ***some*** understatement!]The company's phones were busy Friday night.

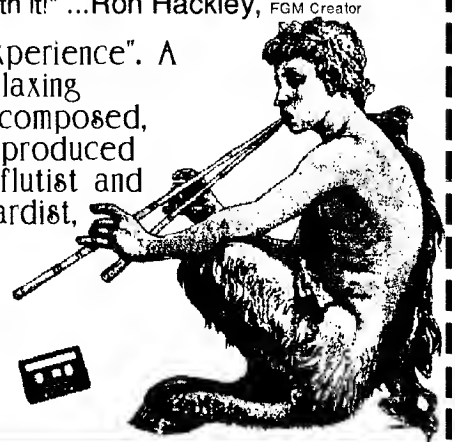
More Silly Patents: Energizer Bunny Software Program Threatened By Patent

04/06/94 WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A., 1994 APR 6 (NB) -- PC Dynamics is being accused of patent infringement for its Energizer Bunny screen saver software, but not from the Eveready Battery company, who uses the bunny in its commercials. The patent infringement accusation is coming from Software Advertising Corporation of La Costa, California, which claims it has a patent on putting advertising into software programs.

Software Advertising claims it holds US patent No. 5,105,184 granted in 1992, which covers any "...system which integrates an advertisement into a computer software program without altering the function of the program." Software Advertising is seeking royalty payments from PC Dynamics for using advertising in its screen saver.

Like television screens, computer monitors "burn-in" images displayed without change over a long period of time, so the shadowy image appears even when the monitor is turned off. To prevent this effect, screen saver software tracks the computer users' activity, and

Continued on page 5

SOUNDSCAPES
"...Excellent! I loved it! And it's by a fellow 8-bitter. Buy it! It's worth it!" ...Ron Hackley, FGM Creator
"A visual experience". A soothing, relaxing synthestra, composed, performed, produced entirely by flutist and MIDI keyboardist, Jeff Jones.

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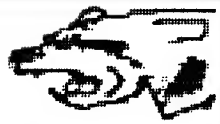

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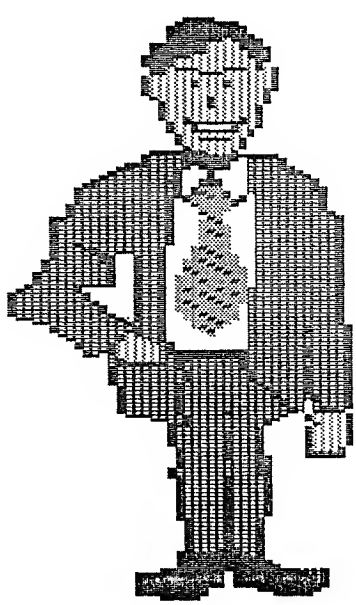

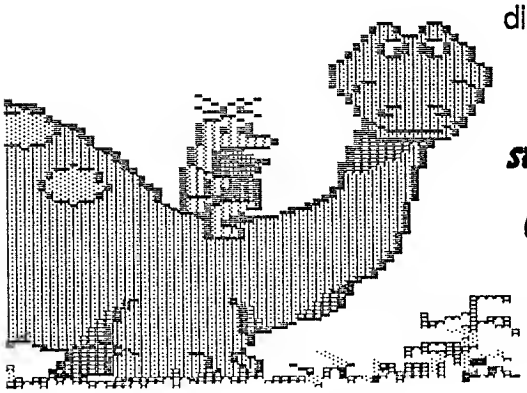

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I grabbed this continually updated list from The Neutral Zone, in Shreveport. Pass it on.

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501-898-4526	StarBase 13	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
902-461-4317	Circuit Breaker	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
904-441-5923	Daytona Online	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
707-557-6444	The Black Rose	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
801-375-2646	The Prince Palace	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
602-841-1861	Abattoir Flats	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
602-993-3239	Magic Circus	96	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
717-236-4756	Tropical Aquarium	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
717-896-8956	Behind The Moon	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-CBM
717-932-2207	Traders Bay	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
215-242-4604	CHMAG BBS	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
517-337-9389	Kapital K'pers BBS	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
717-564-3619	Commodore Conn.	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-CBM
717-238-7926	CRYSTAL CAVERNS	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
717-236-3825	My House	12	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
318-687-1452	The Neutral Zone	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
501-835-6065	Elysian Fields	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
216-475-8634	Point Of Entry	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
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801-423-2734	Port Commodore	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
708-516-1079	Jester's Court	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
713-992-2526	Wizard's Workshop	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
619-429-8192	Commodore Image BBS	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
512-441-1105	Wirenut's BBS	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
413-599-1713	The Spotlight	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
713-852-7028	PowerHouse	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
815-923-2382	USS Menahga	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
619-258-1222	The Enterprise 1701	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
714-823-6523	The Crystal Castle	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
708-433-8287	The Firing Line	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
413-525-0148	Creative Micro Design	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
416-588-0922	Highlander	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
708-852-1292	S.C.U.G.	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
909-242-2211	Future Frontier	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
206-599-1828	Future Mountain	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
318-929-4020	BODACIOUS BBS	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
708-673-8070	Wolf's Den	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
517-852-3981	The Magic Kingdom	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
602-848-6072	Deep Space Nine	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
602-246-8580	The Dark Tower	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM
717-564-7302	Starbase 717	12	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
602-246-7195	The Desert Oasis	96	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
602-953-2351	Desert Springs	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
602-921-1948	High Seas	24	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
602-788-0951	Infinity Factory	96	24hr-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
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501-835-4158	MENTAL OVERLOAD	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-CBM
904-274-4033	draft-link	03	24hr-MSG-GAM-CBM
717-236-1596	Alpha Centauri	24	24hr-NET-UDs-MSG-GAM-RPG-CBM

IBM = IBM/Clone System
CBM = Commodore 64/128 System
MAC = Macintosh System
APL = Apple System
NET = Networked
MSG = Message Bases
RPG = Online Role Playing Games
AMG = Amiga System
ATR = Atari System
TRS = Tandy System
UKN = Unknown System
UDs = File Transfers
GAM = Online Games

Patent War Continued

during periods of inactivity, automatically display moving images on the computer screen.

However, according to PC Dynamics President Peter Avritch: "Burn-in is now almost impossible with newer monitors, but screen savers are enormously popular because they put fun back into computing and help users personalize a computer."

Screen savers have become more humorous and imaginative, with everything from flying toasters, to images of Microsoft Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Bill Gates washing the computer screen (or window). PC Dynamics came up with the Energizer Bunny screen saver, for which it pays royalties to creator Eveready Battery. The screen saver depicts the famous pink bunny parading, parachuting, and snorkeling across the screen.

PC Dynamics claims the Energizer Bunny screen saver is not advertising, as it does not promote batteries, neither does it ask or compel users to buy batteries. But even if it were, "This may be the most bizarre software patent in history," Avritch said. "We believe this is an outrageous effort to wring money from a small software publisher, creating a precedent that threatens continuing litigation against any display of a logo or symbol on a computer screen."

Avritch described the action as "akin to putting your company logo on a coffee mug, or 800-STAPLES across the top of a stapler -- a patent for which would be preposterous. We may as well tell thousands of kids playing on Little League teams across America to turn in uniforms that sport the names of sponsors. Yet the patent office apparently says you can patent advertising on a specific medium, whether or not you own the patent on the medium or a trademark on the symbol or the logo."

This type of patent is precisely what the Interactive Multimedia Association (IMA), a group of 260 multimedia companies, has been fighting. Ken Christie of the IMA said the Software Advertising patent is another example of a relatively over-broad patent that threatens people engaged in multimedia development.

Partially prompted by a computer industry outcry, US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Commissioner Bruce Lehman recently rejected a patent on multimedia granted to Compton's Newmedia in August of 1993, saying the 41 claims in the patent were obvious and not new.

Compton's was claiming it owned the concept of multimedia and announced a royalty payments schedule for anyone using sound, images, and text together. Compton's is expected to respond to the USPTO rejection in the next two months.

"I do not think the patent office ever imagined or considered that this patent might extend to high definition TV with station logos in the corner, or text and data that does not interfere with the function of videophones or the computers that will run the automated homes of the future, even holograms and holodecks," said Avritch.

There was no official reply from Software Advertising Corporation by Newsbytes deadline. (Linda Rohrbough/19940404/Press Contact: Edward Treska, Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear for Software Advertising Corporation, 714- 760-9502; Software Advertising Corporation, 619-729-9669; Steven Leon, Technopolis Communications for PC Dynamics, 310-670-5606; Peter Avritch, PC Dynamics, 800-888-1741 or 818-889-1741)

Two Sad Commodore 64/128 Stories Found On Qlink

From Jean Nance:

Well folks, since this area is kind of slow, I thought I would tell you what happened to our group and our newsletter. I doubt any other group would get into this kind of problem but maybe there is a moral somewhere.

A member in Brentwood,MD got almost 300 copies of our March issue photostated. He got one weighed, and bought first class stamps for all U.S. copies, about 220 of them. He asked the clerk for something to put the copies in. She gave him a mailbag. He stamped the US copies, and brought the bag back. 200 fit in the bag, he handed in the 20 separately. The same clerk accepted the bag. She told him she would get it right on a waiting truck. This was March 11th. When nobody had their copy after a week, he went to the P.O. to check up. He spoke to the postmaster. The Postmaster said. "Oh, well, *anything* that is in a mailbag is handled as 3rd class mail, no matter what postage it had on it. (These were big packages, $1.21 each). He gave no hope that anything could be done, no estimate of when they might start getting out. As of today, none of the 200 members have their copy. We have no idea when they will get them. Now it appears that somewhere in Maryland,there is a distribution center with a problem. There are several trucks full of 3rd class mail standing outside, they don't have the staff to sort the mail, are thinking of

hiring extra help.

Our members are used to getting their copy of the newsletter by the 20th of he month of issue. People have been patient, but eventually, I am going to have to field a LOT of mail from angry and disappointed members.

Well, it felt good to get that off my chest, to people who can understand my frustration.

Sad Case Number Two

Well this is our sadest story. It happened to the Peninsula Commodore User's Group of Newport News, VA. We are heavy into BBSing around here and we frequently get members who first heard about us from the local CBM BBSes (3 right now). Well anyway there was one guy who seemed pretty cool and we had all chatted to him via E-Mail and on his BBS (he used to run one). The then president made him an honorary member. Since we, like most UG out there, are running on a thin membership, we asked him if he could do the disk of the month for us and be club librarian. He rapidly agreed to this. We had a very extensive library. It was over 600 disks and a SID Stereo cartridge. All of it public domain and some of it very fine shareware as well as x-rated public domain/shareware that was gotten over long distance bbs comms from bbses that no longer exist and you will certainly not find on Q-Link. He did not show up at the next meeting, or the next, or the next. Finally a "friend" of his said that he had to suddenly leave town due to his father's obligations. We sent word to him to send us th disks back (postage due even). He never did. It has now been 9 months and no word of him whatsoever. His old house is vacant, all mail gets returned (stamped "no forwarding address"). It is as if he has been wiped off the face of the earth. All user groups out there...take heed! I really don't know of anyway to prevent this in the future, but the whole story is kinda sad especially because all he did was come to one meeting and basically rip off all our hard work and collecting. I have since proposed that you must be a member for at least 12 months before becoming club librarian and we are still on the verge of incorporating that into our bylaws. Take a lesson from us, and don't trust people you barely know with valuable and almost irreplaceable things.

Media Addresses Along the Superhighway

What follows is by no means a complete "Media" address list. The Internet addresses of Congress was left out because of the silly rules you must follow to email them (you have to send a snail mail postcard to participating congressmen first.) The address of Rush Limbaugh was left out because he stated that he ignores Internet mail because he mistakenly believes Internet is populated mainly by leftwing college students. If you're on Compuserve, you can reach Rush at 70277,2502 (unfortunately you're just a number on Compuserve). President Clinton's address is *president@whitehouse.gov* and Vice President Al Gore's address is *vice.president@whitehouse.gov.* Any *GEnie, America Online, Delphi* and most college students can reach any of the following addresses via the Internet.

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Boston Globe: sysop@news.ci.nat Boston Globe
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Please include full name and address

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The Journal Newspapers 5 D.C. : thejournal@aol.com

WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

Hill Timas, Ottawa: ab142@freenet.carleton.ca
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MAGAZINES AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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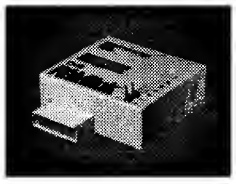

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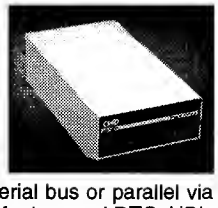

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